

Clay Pottery Dish

Scripture:

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. (2 Corinthians 4:7)

Main Message:

It is not the container, it is the contents that matter!

Materials List:

(1) Clay Pottery baking Dish

Song: *Have Thine Own Way*

Lesson:

One of my favorite things in the world is having people to my house for a meal. I love to cook and bake and make my house a place where everyone can feel comfortable and loved. I enjoy feeding people the Mexican dishes that I've grown up with. It's always exciting for me to see if they like them or not. Some really love and appreciate them and some, not so much.

I love serving these dishes in a covered clay pottery dish my husband and I received as a wedding gift. This clay serving dish was made by a family friend of my husband's. It is special because this friend hand crafted it just for us! I would like to think this serving dish really makes the food taste better and makes it look more authentic, but really, it is the food that speaks for itself!

In 2 Corinthians 4:7, the apostle Paul compares the Christian to a jar of clay (clay serving dish). Just like my clay serving dish supplies delicious food to those who are hungry, we too, as jars of clay, supply the message of the gospel to those around us.

My clay serving dish reminds me that the most important part is the contents in the dish and not the dish itself. As Paul says, "...that the surpassing power belongs to God and not from us". I would love to think, as I said earlier, that the dish is responsible for making the food taste so much better. After all, it is a beautiful dish. It was given to us out of love. But the dish really has nothing to do with the taste of my food. It is the creator of the food and the food itself that gets the credit.

Likewise, we, as jars of clay, are to serve or present the gospel to others who have never heard it before. We may be very proud of these contents, but we must never forget that it was Jesus who died for us and provided the "contents" for us. We are merely the jar or "serving dish" that is used by God to give His message to others. His content is of much more importance than the one who presents it. He created it! It is His plan! May we never forget that the "all-surpassing power" of the gospel is from God and not from us!

Prayer: Thank God for His power that is so much greater than ours and ask Him to use us as jars of clay.